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EXAMINER

ABRISHAMKAR, KAVEH

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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2131

DATE MAILED: 11/30/2004

11

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/938,516

Applicant(s)

GASSHO, KAZUHITO

Examiner

Kaveh Abrishamkar

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 27 August 2001.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-57 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-57 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date 6
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

1. This action is in response to the communication filed on August 27, 2001.
Claims 1 – 57 were received for consideration. No preliminary amendments for the claims were filed. Claims 1 – 57 are currently being considered.

Information Disclosure Statement

2. An initialed and dated copy of Applicant's IDS form 1449, Paper No. 6, is attached to this Office action.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

3. Claims 1-3, 9, 19-20, 28-30, 34, 42-47, 51 and 57 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Wiegley (U.S. Patent 6,711,677).

Regarding claim 1, Wiegley discloses:

A print system including a printer and a content server connected to the printer via a network, comprising:

a content database for the content server which collects a plurality of kinds of content original data (column 3 lines 40 – 57);

a reader which, in the content server, reads content original data of a kind selected by a user as content data from the content database (column 3 line 40 – column 4 line 8);

a printer specifying information requester which gives a request for transmission of printer specifying information including a printer identifier to specify the printer to the printer which is transmitted the content data read by the reader from the content server (column 4 lines 7 – 63);

a printer specifying information transmitter which transmits the printer specifying information including the printer identifier from the printer to the content server based on the request from the printer specifying information requester (column 4 lines 7 – 63);

a print job generator which, in the content server, generates print job data including at least the content data and the printer specifying information based on the content data read by the reader and the received printer specifying information (column 3 line 63 – column 4 line 63);

a print job data transmitter which transmits the print job data from the content server to the printer (column 3 line 63 – column 4 line 63);

a print job data receiver which receives the print job data transmitted from the content server to the printer (column 3 line 63 – column 4 line 63);

a judging portion which, in the printer, reads the printer identifier included in the printer specifying information of the print job data and judges whether the printer identifier coincides with its own printer identifier (column 4 line 30 – column 5 line 47); and

a print executor which executes print of the print job data in the printer only when the judging portion judges that the printer identifier included in the print job data coincides with its own printer identifier (column 5 lines 3 – 47).

Claim 2 is rejected as applied above in rejecting claim 1. Furthermore, Wiegley discloses:

The print system according to claim 1, wherein when transmitting the printer specifying information to the content server, the printer encrypts the printer identifier and transmits the encrypted printer identifier as the printer specifying information (column 4 lines 47 – 63).

Claim 3 is rejected as applied above in rejecting claim 1. Furthermore, Wiegley discloses:

The print system according to claim 1, wherein when transmitting the printer specifying information to the content server, the printer transmits the printer identifier as the printer specifying information without encrypting the printer identifier (column 4 lines 47 – 63).

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Claim 9 is rejected as applied above in rejecting claim 1. Furthermore, Wiegley discloses:

The print system according to claim 1,
wherein the print executor comprises:

a print permission requester which gives a request for print permission to the content server from the printer when the judging portion judges that the printer identifier included in the print job data coincides with its own printer identifier (column 4 line 30 – column 5 line 47);

a print permission transmitter which transmits print permission from the content server to the printer when the request for print permission is given from the printer (column 4 line 30 – column 5 line 47); and

a permitted print executor which executes print based on the print job data in the printer which has received the print permission (column 5 lines 3 – 47).

Claim 19 is rejected as applied above in rejecting claim 1. Furthermore, Wiegley discloses:

The print system according to claim 1,

wherein the print job data generator generates the print job data with protection to prevent unjust copy (column 3 line 62 – column 4 line 63),

wherein the print job data receiver temporarily stores the received print job data in an auxiliary memory of the printer without removing the protection (column 4 line 21 – column 5 line 24), and

wherein the judging portion reads the print job data from the auxiliary memory (column 4 line 21 – column 6 line 24).

Claim 20 is rejected as applied above in rejecting claim 19. Furthermore Wiegley discloses:

The print system according to claim 19, wherein the print executor requests a protection removing key necessary to remove the protection from the content server only when the judging portion judges that the printer identifier included in the print job data coincides with its own printer identifier (column 4 line 30 – column 5 line 25).

Claims 28, 29, 30, 34, 42-47 are claims regarding a printer analogous to the print system claims rejected above and therefore are rejected following the same reasoning.

Claims 51 and 57 are claims regarding a content server analogous to the print system claims rejected above and therefore are rejected following the same reasoning.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

4. Claims 4-8, 10-18, 21-27, 31-33, 35-41, 48-50, and 52-56 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Wiegley (U.S. Patent 6,711,677) in view of Venkatesan et al. (U.S. Patent 6,801,999).

Claim 4 is rejected as applied above in rejecting claim 1. Wiegley does not explicitly disclose including one first copy guard code inserted at a specific position and one or a plurality of second copy guard codes are inserted in the content data, generating a first copy guard code and a first code pointer indicating a position of a second copy guard code, wherein the first and second code pointer are determined randomly every time these first and second code pointers are generated. The copy guard codes are interpreted as being bits in the content data stream, which contain information about printer (printer specifying information). The code pointers are interpreted as being pointers to the locations where the copy guard codes are embedded. Venkatesan discloses including one first copy guard code inserted at a specific position and one or a plurality of second copy guard codes are inserted in the content data, generating a first copy guard code and a first code pointer indicating a position of a second copy guard code, wherein the first and second code pointer are determined randomly every time these first and second code pointers are generated. Venkatesan discloses a system to prevent illicit copying of content received from a content server by embedding watermarks (copy guard codes) through the content and containing pointers (code pointers), which point to the locations where the watermarks (copy guard codes) are embedded (column 13 line 20 – column 15 line 15). Both Wiegley and Venkatesan are

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directed towards providing security and confidentiality to content data by the use of keys and identifiers. Wiegley discloses a "session identifier" which is encrypted, and sent with the encrypted content data which could be embedded in the content data using the same methodology of Venkatesan. In the system of Wiegley there is not explicit mention of the session identifier being embedded throughout the document, however, Venkatesan states that embedding just one watermark (copy guard code) is disadvantageous because "if a pirate were to discover the watermark, thus breaking the "lock", the pirate could then excise the watermark from the object, and illicitly and massively copy" (column 12 lines 10 – 24). Using the system of Venkatesan in the secure printing environment of Wiegley would provided multiple occurrences of the session identifier, and thereby providing layered security which allows the watermark (copy guard code) to be "as difficult as possible for a third party to copy or alter" (Venkatesan column 13 lines 13 – 17). Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to integrate the multiple embedded watermark system of Venkatesan into the secure printing environment of Wiegley to make it as difficult as possible for a third party to illicitly copy and distribute the secure content by making multiple occurrences of the watermark (copy guard code).

Claim 7 is rejected as applied above in rejecting claim 1. Furthermore, Wiegley discloses generating encrypted content data (column 5 lines 25 – 47). Wiegley does not explicitly discloses generating a third copy guard code including at least the printer specifying information. Venkatesan discloses a system to prevent illicit copying of

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content received from a content server by embedding watermarks (copy guard codes) through the content and containing pointers (code pointers), which point to the locations where the watermarks (copy guard codes) are embedded (column 13 line 20 – column 15 line 15). Both Wiegley and Venkatesan are directed towards providing security and confidentiality to content data by the use of keys and identifiers. Wiegley discloses a "session identifier" which is encrypted, and sent with the encrypted content data which could be embedded in the content data using the same methodology of Venkatesan. In the system of Wiegley there is not explicit mention of the session identifier being embedded throughout the document, however, Venkatesan states that embedding just one watermark (copy guard code) is disadvantageous because "if a pirate were to discover the watermark, thus breaking the "lock", the pirate could then excise the watermark from the object, and illicitly and massively copy" (column 12 lines 10 – 24). Using the system of Venkatesan in the secure printing environment of Wiegley would provided multiple occurrences of the session identifier, and thereby providing layered security which allows the watermark (copy guard code) to be "as difficult as possible for a third party to copy or alter" (Venkatesan column 13 lines 13 – 17). Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to integrate the multiple embedded watermark system of Venkatesan into the secure printing environment of Wiegley to make it as difficult as possible for a third party to illicitly copy and distribute the secure content by making multiple occurrences of the watermark (copy guard code).

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Claim 5 is rejected as applied above in rejecting claim 4. Furthermore, Wiegley discloses:

The print system according to claim 4, wherein the content server encrypts the first code pointer (column 4 line 30 – column 5 line 47).

Claim 6 is rejected as applied above in rejecting claim 4. Furthermore, Wiegley discloses:

The print system according to claim 4, wherein the content server encrypts the first code pointer and holds a code pointer decrypting key which is a decrypting key of the first code pointer (column 4 line 30 – column 5 line 47).

Claim 8 is rejected as applied above in rejecting claim 7. Furthermore, Wiegley discloses:

The print system according to claim 7, wherein a content data decrypting key which is a decrypting key of the encrypted content data is held in the content server (column 4 line 30 – column 5 line 47).

Claim 10 is rejected as applied above in rejecting claim 9. Wiegley does not explicitly disclose including one first copy guard code inserted at a specific position and one or a plurality of second copy guard codes are inserted in the content data, generating a first copy guard code and a first code pointer indicating a position of a second copy guard code, wherein the first and second code pointer are determined randomly every time

these first and second code pointers are generated. The copy guard codes are interpreted as being bits in the content data stream, which contain information about printer (printer specifying information). The code pointers are interpreted as being pointers to the locations where the copy guard codes are embedded. Venkatesan discloses including one first copy guard code inserted at a specific position and one or a plurality of second copy guard codes are inserted in the content data, generating a first copy guard code and a first code pointer indicating a position of a second copy guard code, wherein the first and second code pointer are determined randomly every time these first and second code pointers are generated. Venkatesan discloses a system to prevent illicit copying of content received from a content server by embedding watermarks (copy guard codes) through the content and containing pointers (code pointers), which point to the locations where the watermarks (copy guard codes) are embedded (column 13 line 20 – column 15 line 15). Both Wiegley and Venkatesan are directed towards providing security and confidentiality to content data by the use of keys and identifiers. Wiegley discloses a “session identifier” which is encrypted, and sent with the encrypted content data which could be embedded in the content data using the same methodology of Venkatesan. In the system of Wiegley there is not explicit mention of the session identifier being embedded throughout the document, however, Venkatesan states that embedding just one watermark (copy guard code) is disadvantageous because “if a pirate were to discover the watermark, thus breaking the “lock”, the pirate could then excise the watermark from the object, and illicitly and massively copy” (column 12 lines 10 – 24). Using the system of Venkatesan in the

secure printing environment of Wiegley would provided multiple occurrences of the session identifier, and thereby providing layered security which allows the watermark (copy guard code) to be "as difficult as possible for a third party to copy or alter" (Venkatesan column 13 lines 13 – 17). Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to integrate the multiple embedded watermark system of Venkatesan into the secure printing environment of Wiegley to make it as difficult as possible for a third party to illicitly copy and distribute the secure content by making multiple occurrences of the watermark (copy guard code).

Claim 15 is rejected as applied above in rejecting claim 9. Furthermore, Wiegley discloses generating encrypted content data (column 5 lines 25 – 47). Wiegley does not explicitly discloses generating a third copy guard code including at least the printer specifying information. Venkatesan discloses a system to prevent illicit copying of content received from a content server by embedding watermarks (copy guard codes) through the content and containing pointers (code pointers), which point to the locations where the watermarks (copy guard codes) are embedded (column 13 line 20 – column 15 line 15). Both Wiegley and Venkatesan are directed towards providing security and confidentiality to content data by the use of keys and identifiers. Wiegley discloses a "session identifier" which is encrypted, and sent with the encrypted content data which could be embedded in the content data using the same methodology of Venkatesan. In the system of Wiegley there is not explicit mention of the session identifier being embedded throughout the document, however, Venkatesan states that embedding just

one watermark (copy guard code) is disadvantageous because "if a pirate were to discover the watermark, thus breaking the "lock", the pirate could then excise the watermark from the object, and illicitly and massively copy" (column 12 lines 10 – 24). Using the system of Venkatesan in the secure printing environment of Wiegley would provided multiple occurrences of the session identifier, and thereby providing layered security which allows the watermark (copy guard code) to be "as difficult as possible for a third party to copy or alter" (Venkatesan column 13 lines 13 – 17). Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to integrate the multiple embedded watermark system of Venkatesan into the secure printing environment of Wiegley to make it as difficult as possible for a third party to illicitly copy and distribute the secure content by making multiple occurrences of the watermark (copy guard code).

Claim 23 is rejected as applied above in rejecting claim 19. Wiegley does not explicitly disclose including one first copy guard code inserted at a specific position and one or a plurality of second copy guard codes are inserted in the content data, generating a first copy guard code and a first code pointer indicating a position of a second copy guard code, wherein the first and second code pointer are determined randomly every time these first and second code pointers are generated. The copy guard codes are interpreted as being bits in the content data stream, which contain information about printer (printer specifying information). The code pointers are interpreted as being pointers to the locations where the copy guard codes are embedded. Venkatesan

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discloses including one first copy guard code inserted at a specific position and one or a plurality of second copy guard codes are inserted in the content data, generating a first copy guard code and a first code pointer indicating a position of a second copy guard code, wherein the first and second code pointer are determined randomly every time these first and second code pointers are generated. Venkatesan discloses a system to prevent illicit copying of content received from a content server by embedding watermarks (copy guard codes) through the content and containing pointers (code pointers), which point to the locations where the watermarks (copy guard codes) are embedded (column 13 line 20 – column 15 line 15). Both Wiegley and Venkatesan are directed towards providing security and confidentiality to content data by the use of keys and identifiers. Wiegley discloses a “session identifier” which is encrypted, and sent with the encrypted content data, which could be embedded, in the content data using the same methodology of Venkatesan. In the system of Wiegley there is not explicit mention of the session identifier being embedded throughout the document, however, Venkatesan states that embedding just one watermark (copy guard code) is disadvantageous because “if a pirate were to discover the watermark, thus breaking the “lock”, the pirate could then excise the watermark from the object, and illicitly and massively copy” (column 12 lines 10 – 24). Using the system of Venkatesan in the secure printing environment of Wiegley would provide multiple occurrences of the session identifier, and thereby providing layered security which allows the watermark (copy guard code) to be “as difficult as possible for a third party to copy or alter” (Venkatesan column 13 lines 13 – 17). Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of

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ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to integrate the multiple embedded watermark system of Venkatesan into the secure printing environment of Wiegley to make it as difficult as possible for a third party to illicitly copy and distribute the secure content by making multiple occurrences of the watermark (copy guard code).

Claim 26 is rejected as applied above in rejecting claim 19. Furthermore, Wiegley discloses generating encrypted content data (column 5 lines 25 – 47). Wiegley does not explicitly disclose generating a third copy guard code including at least the printer specifying information. Venkatesan discloses a system to prevent illicit copying of content received from a content server by embedding watermarks (copy guard codes) through the content and containing pointers (code pointers), which point to the locations where the watermarks (copy guard codes) are embedded (column 13 line 20 – column 15 line 15). Both Wiegley and Venkatesan are directed towards providing security and confidentiality to content data by the use of keys and identifiers. Wiegley discloses a “session identifier” which is encrypted, and sent with the encrypted content data which could be embedded in the content data using the same methodology of Venkatesan. In the system of Wiegley there is not explicit mention of the session identifier being embedded throughout the document, however, Venkatesan states that embedding just one watermark (copy guard code) is disadvantageous because “if a pirate were to discover the watermark, thus breaking the “lock”, the pirate could then excise the watermark from the object, and illicitly and massively copy” (column 12 lines 10 – 24). Using the system of Venkatesan in the secure printing environment of Wiegley would

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provided multiple occurrences of the session identifier, and thereby providing layered security which allows the watermark (copy guard code) to be "as difficult as possible for a third party to copy or alter" (Venkatesan column 13 lines 13 – 17). Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to integrate the multiple embedded watermark system of Venkatesan into the secure printing environment of Wiegley to make it as difficult as possible for a third party to illicitly copy and distribute the secure content by making multiple occurrences of the watermark (copy guard code).

Claim 11 is rejected as applied above in rejecting claim 10. Furthermore, Wiegley discloses:

The print system according to claim 10, wherein the content server encrypts the first code pointer (column 4 line 30 – column 5 line 47).

Claim 12 is rejected as applied above in rejecting claim 10. Furthermore, Wiegley discloses:

The print system according to claim 10, wherein the content server encrypts the first code pointer and holds a code pointer decrypting key which is a decrypting key of the first code pointer (column 4 line 30 – column 5 line 47).

Claim 16 is rejected as applied above in rejecting claim 15. Furthermore, Wiegley discloses:

The print system according to claim 15, wherein a content data decrypting key which is a decrypting key of the encrypted content data is held in the content server (column 4 line 30 – column 5 line 47).

Claim 21 is rejected as applied above in rejecting claim 20. Furthermore, Wiegley discloses:

The print system according to claim 20, wherein when transmitting the printer specifying information to the content server, the printer encrypts the printer identifier and transmits the encrypted printer identifier as the printer specifying information (column 4 lines 47 – 63).

Claim 22 is rejected as applied above in rejecting claim 20. Furthermore, Wiegley discloses:

The print system according to claim 20, wherein when transmitting the printer specifying information to the content server, the printer transmits the printer identifier as the printer specifying information without encrypting the printer identifier (column 4 lines 47 – 63).

Claim 24 is rejected as applied above in rejecting claim 23. Furthermore, Wiegley discloses:

The print system according to claim 23, wherein the content server encrypts the first code pointer (column 4 lines 30 - column 5 line 47).

Claim 27 is rejected as applied above in rejecting claim 26. Furthermore, Wiegley discloses:

The print system according to claim 26, wherein a content data decrypting key which is a decrypting key of the encrypted content data is held as the protection removing key in the content server (column 4 lines 30 - column 5 line 47).

Claim 13 is rejected as applied above in rejecting claim 12. Furthermore, Wiegley discloses:

The print system according to claim 12, wherein the print permission transmitter transmits the code pointer decrypting key as the print permission from the content server to the printer based on the request for the print permission from the printer (column 4 lines 30 - column 5 line 47).

Claim 17 is rejected as applied above in rejecting claim 16. Furthermore, Wiegley discloses:

The print system according to claim 16, wherein the print permission transmitter transmits the content data decrypting key as the print permission from the content server to the printer based on the request for the print permission from the printer (column 4 lines 30 - column 5 line 47).

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Claim 14 is rejected as applied above in rejecting claim 13. Furthermore, Wiegley discloses:

The print system according to claim 13,
wherein the permitted print executor
decrypts the first code pointer with the code pointer decrypting key as the
decrypting key to obtain the position of the next second copy guard code and
sequentially obtain positions of subsequent second copy guard codes each based on a
second code pointer of the preceding second copy guard code (column 4 lines 30 -
column 5 line 47); and
executes print after removing these first and second copy guard codes in
sequence (column 4 lines 30 - column 5 line 47).

Claim 18 is rejected as applied above in rejecting claim 17. Furthermore, Wiegley discloses:

The print system according to claim 17, wherein the permitted print executor
obtains the content data by decrypting the encrypted content data with the content data
decrypting key as the decrypting key and executes print based on this content data
(column 4 lines 30 - column 5 line 47).

Claims 31-33, 35-41 and 48-50 are claims regarding a printer analogous to the print
system claims rejected above and therefore are rejected following the same reasoning.

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Claims 52-56 are claims regarding a content server analogous to the print system claims rejected above and therefore are rejected following the same reasoning.


Conclusion

5. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Kaveh Abrishamkar whose telephone number is 571-272-3786. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday thru Friday 8-5.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Ayaz Sheikh can be reached on 571-272-3795. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

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